

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 231024Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1458
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

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USEEC AND AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH MAOIST HOLD CONGRESS

1. THE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORT), A RECENTLY-LEGALIZED FAR-LEFT SPLINTER PARTY, CELEBRATED ITS FIRST PUBLIC CONVENTION IN MADRID AUGUST 13-20. THE ORT, A SELF-STYLED MAOIST GROUPING, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NON-VILENT LEFTIST FRINGE GROUPS, AND THE CONVENTION ATTRACTED ABOUT 600 DELEGATES, PLUS OBSERVERS FROM THE SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE), COMMUNISTS (PCE), AN ALPHABET SOUP OF SMALL SPANISH EXTREMIST PARTIES (THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MC, ARDE,9 053, LCR, OIC, AND THE BASQUE GROUPS EIA AND EHAS), A DELEGATION FROM THE "MOVEMENT OF THE WORKERS FOR ITALIAN SOCIALISM," AND CONSIDERABLE PRESS COVERAGE.

2. DURING THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES A NEW PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS ELECTED, WHICH IN TURN UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED JOSE SANROMA (AKA INTXAUSTI) AS PARTY SEC GEN. DOCUMENTS

WERE ADOPTED FIXING ORGANIZATIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES AND IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES. PARTY LEADERS ALSO:
--CLAIMED THE PCE HAD "CEASED TO BE COMMUNIST" BY ABANDONING MARXISM-LENINISM.
--OPPOSED SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO.
--CALLED FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF ENTERING THE EEC.
--ADVOCATED RETURN OF THE SPANISH ENCLAVES OF CEUTA AND MELILLA TO MOROCCO, AND OF GIBRALTAR TO SPAIN.
--DENOUNCED ANY "SOCIAL PACT" ON THE WAGE FRONT.
--OFFERED ITS OWN SOLUTIONS TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, WHICH CENTERED ON EXPROPRIATION OF UNDER-UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL LAND, AN INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE, EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, A FREEZE ON HIGH-LEVEL SALARIES, AND EMPHASIS ON EMPLOYMENT-GENERATING PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS.

3. A PARTY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT ORT LEADERS WOULD MEET AFTER THE CONVENTION'S CLOSE WITH CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA AND SENATE PRESIDENT FONTAN, AND OPTIMISTICALLY CLAIMED, "WE CONSIDER OURSELVES A PARTY WITH SOLUTIONS FOR GOVT." NEITHER ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA NOR FONTAN HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH A MEETING WILL INDEED TAKE PLACE.

5. COMMENT: THE ORT, WHICH CAME INTO BEING ABOUT 1960 AS A MARXIST/LEGTOCATHOLIC LABOR MOVEMENT WITH ITS STRENGTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTERED PRINCIPALLY IN NAVARRE, IS MUCH MORE A FAR-LEFT PRESSURE GROUP AND POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE LABOR ELEMENT THAN IT IS AN ELECTORAL PARTY PER SE. CONSEQUENTLY, ITS FUTURE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE MAY BE OUT OF PROPORTION TO ITS NUMBERS (ORT, BY ITS OWN HOPEFUL COUNT, HAS 16,000 MILITANTS) OR TO ITS JUNE 15 ELECTORAL SHOWING, WHEN ITS "WORKER CANDIDACY" (CANDIDATURA DE TRABAJADORES) SLATES, NOT SURPRISINGLY, FARED POORLY (IN MADRID, FOR INSTANCE, THE ORT-BACKED LIST RECEIVED LESS THAN 15,000 VOTES -- 0.6 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL). PUTTING THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL OBSERVER ASSERTS THAT THE SPANISH FAR-LEFT GENERALLY GARNERED ABOUT TWICE AS MANY VOTES IN THE JUNE 15 CONTEST AS THE ITALIAN FAR-LEFT DID, RELATIVELY SPEAKING, IN THE LAST NATIONAL ITALIAN ELECTIONS. IF -- AND THIS IS A VERY BIG IF -- THESE WARRING FAR-LEFT GROUPINGS, PARTICULARLY ORT AND PTE, CAN BURY THEIR DIFFERENCES AND PRESENT UNIFIED CANDIDACIES IN THE COMING MUNICIPALS, THEY MIGHT EVEN SUCCEED IN ELECTING A FEW OF THEIR NUMBER TO LOCAL OFFICE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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